

## The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1887.

## Domestic Service.

Mrs. Helen Campbell has been investigating the condition of the poor working women of New York, furnishing an account of her experiences in the Sunday edition of the New York Tribune, under the title of "Prisoners of Poverty." These articles have attracted unusual attention. They show the miserable condition under which these poor women exist, working for a mere pittance, and starving for lack even of the necessities of life. We have not space to give even an idea of the details furnished, except to say that from twelve to fourteen hours labor at the sewing machine does not yield sufficient income to supply meat, or fuel, or medicine, while the body of the most vigorous toiler is gradually weakened until it succumbs to fatal attacks of disease.

The low price paid for this kind of labor is of course due to competition, and the ever-increasing numbers of women who in this way attempt to meet the wants of their helpless families. Various reasons account for their impoverished condition. The accidents of life, evil associations, drink, ignorance, and laziness contribute to the final result. One has sorted up the poor in this way; the Lord's poor, the Devil's poor, and the poor devils. The first are those who are made poor by sickness, the loss of friends, financial catastrophes, and other troubles from which there is no immunity. The Devil's poor are those who are in their evil state because they prefer to beg or steal rather than work. Slaves of drink and other evil passions are the "poor devils" whose lot is hard, and for whom there seems no salvation except the rest of a dishonored grave.

For those respectable, industrious, sometimes happy people whom evil fortune has driven to poverty and perhaps also shame, every honest heart will ache. What remedy can be devised for their relief? Many answers have been supplied. Let them be sent from the city to the farms of the West. Let them seek higher fields of usefulness and more difficult employment. Let them undertake domestic service. It is the last remedy which seems most practical. Good servants are scarce; their wages high. Why may not these honest toilers find relief from labor, with abundant food, good homes, and improving companionship in this way? Mayor Hewitt has suggested this as a convenient and practical, if not an adequate remedy.

There are some objections, frivolous it is true, but very powerful. There is the ignorance and incapability to serve. Many women, even of those brought up in good families, are so far mis-educated as to know little or nothing of housework. The details of cooking, washing, ironing, and dusting are unexplored mysteries. Sudden misfortunes find them unprepared to do anything more than plain sewing. This they must do or starve.

On the other hand there is the inability of women to govern. Knowing nothing of housework and caring less, the maid-of-all-work is made the slave of one who has never toiled but demands incessant submission to unreasonable commands.

A single remark dropped in a women's meeting a few days ago, will illustrate our position. "It was suggested that the amelioration of women was in the hands of women if they would but treat them fairly, and it was also suggested that tens of thousands of women would endure any privation rather than work for women, and endure their caprices." The inability of women to govern is as conspicuous as the incapability to serve. It is useless to specify. One who has tried to please a capricious, self-willed woman, will pity the servant who must endure her abuse, almost as much as the husband who meekly submits to her tiresome complaints.

There are however families, and they are the vast majority, where labor is estimated at its full worth, where helpfulness, charity, and wisdom are the rule, where it is a privilege to serve, and where sufficient freedom is allowed to secure change and brightness to their otherwise cold and hard lives.

As was said at the meeting of Sorosis mentioned above: "Given the right kind of a home, and the right kind of a helper will rise to fill it." What is needed in America is a new belief in the dignity of labor. An industrial education for girls is quite as necessary as for boys. Common household duties should be taught even in wealthy families to prepare for the possible vicissitudes of life, or to teach sympathy and help for those who labor.

—Charles Scribner's Sons are to bring out part second of "The Buchholz Family." There are in the original four parts, and if the second is as successful here as the first has been, the third and fourth will probably follow.

## Thoughts About the Y. M. C. A.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Bloomfield is an accomplished fact. The time for debating the expediency of its formation, the probability of its support by the people, whether more good cannot be accomplished some other way, and like questions, has passed. In view of the immense amount of good that similar organizations have elsewhere accomplished, every good Christian and every patriotic citizen will bid it good speed, whether he be doubter or enthusiast. We know that some of the sincerest opponents of the scheme will be found among its most practical supporters.

It should be most thoroughly understood by the leaders of this new movement, for which so much is hoped and from which so much may be realized, that the elements of success and failure lie within and not without. Opposition and indifference will but stimulate effort, and thus make more certain final results, but riders of hobbies and possessors of isms, within the camp, will soon cause the society to join the already large company of Bloomfield's defunct organizations. Let those men who are sure they are right be invited to take a back seat. The pathway of the past is strewn with the wrecks of opinions and theories, which emanated from those who knew they were right, the word of man and the Word of God to the contrary notwithstanding. "The man who knows he is right," says a philosopher, "is almost sure to be wrong and has the additional misfortune of inevitably remaining so."

Churches and societies founded on "moral ideas" are veritable living places for poor creatures, who insist upon running the pure water of the Word of God through their own disordered systems, and then with bowl in one hand and dagger in the other, would leave but a sorry choice had they the power. Certainly in a new society, free from the accumulated rubbish of tradition, its total energy might be used in fighting the world, the flesh, and the devil, and act upon the principle that all who are thus engaged are with them, and those who are not thus engaged are against them, even though they inscribe on their banners, that they are more righteous than other men.

The fundamental elements of morality are few and simple, and easy to be understood. To our mind the Y. M. C. A. should struggle for the securing of these, and leave straining at gnats to those of weak minds and disordered bodies.

## LITERARY NOTES.

—The Lovers of Longfellow, who are to be numbered by tens of thousands, must congratulate themselves on the delightful shape in which his writings are now in course of publication by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The Riverside Edition should be, as regards text, a final edition. It will comprise all the prose and verse that Mr. Longfellow saw fit to include in the latest editions of his lifetime, together with many experiments in both forms of composition, which he excluded from his collected writings. These will be printed in the appendices of certain of the eleven volumes of this edition. This will be done for the convenience of students, and because the greater part of the matter has already been reprinted in less accessible volumes. The first two volumes contain (I) "Outre-Mer" and "Drift Wood" and (II) "Hyperion" and "Cavanagh." To each tale or series of sketches is prefixed an introductory note, telling under what circumstances it was written and to what extent fiction and fact were mingled in its composition. In all respects these volumes reflect credit on the Riverside Press. We might wish that the paper were a trifle thicker; but the type is large and clear, the margins quite wide enough, and the binding sober yet elegant. In their cheapest form (cloth covers), the volumes are \$1.50 each.

—Madame Henry Greville has just begun the publication in feuilleton form of a new novel entitled "La Marquise de Frankley." The hero is an American, Horace S. Frankley, who, after several years' residence abroad, returns to his native land. He is a young Bostonian, a graduate of Harvard, and on quitting the steamer at New York hastens off to the Hub, where the last installment of the story leaves him busy hunting up old friends, and calling back fading recollections. There promises to be a great deal of local color in this novel, the first fruit of Mme. Greville's visit to the United States last year, and it will doubtless be read with considerable curiosity, especially in Boston, where the brilliant authoress made so many friends.

—Uncle Sam's Medal of Honor is an account of some of the noble deeds for which the medal of honor of this country has been awarded. The stories are collected and edited by General Theodore F. Rodenbourg. They are the acts of men whose names have been selected at random from the official lists. The contents include stories of the war of the rebellion and also the wars against the Indians and the tales are spiritedly told. There are many illustrations and it is a cold blooded book which will not be interested in the book. [G. P. Putnam's Sons]

—Roland Blake, a novel by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell is a curious story of

the war and after it, treating a number of interesting questions in the writer's own way. The characters are well drawn, and are sustained throughout very cleverly. There is a vein of mystery and a touch of metaphysics in the story but it is interestingly told and it comes out as near right as a story can. All get their deserts, though that is not always what they want. [Houghton, Mifflin & Co.]

—Long Shore is a collection of verses for each of the thirty-one days each accompanied by a graceful and suggestive illustration and all bearing reference or allusion to the shore, or to the sea. The same author, Elizabeth N. Little, has prepared a similar book, "Habitations of God and His Worshippers," which is also for thirty-one days and is quaintly and charmingly illustrated.

—The descriptive portions of the sumptuous "Book of the Tile Club," introduce mysterious figures, the "Paragon," the "Owl," the "Bishop," the "Griffin," the "Eagle," the "Strips," the "Pagan," etc., but these nicknames veil persons who are everywhere recognized as leading American artists, who are admirably represented in this work by photographs of their own most characteristic pictures.

—The Duke of Argyll's new book "Scotland as It Was and as It Is," which will be illustrated, is divided into seven chapters, of which the titles indicate pretty clearly the contents: Celtic Feudalism, Age of Charters, Epoch of the Clans, The Appeal from Chiefs to Owners, The Response of Ownership, Before the Dawn, The Burst of Industry.

—Footprints of the Saviour, a series of devotional studies in the life and nature of our Lord, by the Rev. Julian K. Smyth, aims to make real to thought and affection the Divine humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, and is a volume of freshness and vigor. [Roberts Brothers]

—Mr. George W. Childs has contributed \$500 to the Hayne-Wilde Memorial Fund. This assures the proper sculpture of the two poets, Richard Henry Wilde, who died nearly forty years ago, and Paul H. Hayne, who has not been dead six months—and the marking of their graves with suitable monuments.

—Tchitchikoff's Journeys, or Dead Souls, by Nikolai Vasilievitch Gogol, is translated into two volumes by Isabel F. Hapgood. It is handsomely printed and is sure of a wide reading. Gogol's stories have long eagerly sought after in the prevailing rush for Russian literature and this is the third that has appeared. [Thomas Y. Crowell]

—The New York Tribune says of "Little Lord Fauntleroy": "The child who is the hero of this book is the ideal boy of the feminine soul—sweet, gentle, useful, tactful, a gentleman of purest ray serene—in fact, such a perfect little boy as was never seen on the face of this earth, and probably never will be."

—Mr. Froude's trip to Australia a couple of years ago, resulted in the publication of his "Oceana," which has reached a sale of 100,000 copies. He has just started on another tour, in quest of the material for another book, this time on the wreck of the Spanish empire. He goes first to the West Indies.

—G. P. A. Healey, the veteran portrait painter, will shortly publish a volume of reminiscences of his professional life. As Mr. Healey has painted the portraits of many of the noted men of the new world, and the popes, emperors, kings, queens and presidents of Europe, we may expect a very interesting and entertaining book.

—"Taken By Siege" is a story by an anonymous writer who dedicates his work to his "friend, Edmund Clarence Steadman." It is the story of a young journalist's experience in New York, and whoever the hero may be, the heroine can hardly be other than an ideal of Clara Louise Kellogg. The story was first printed in "Lippincott's Magazine."

—It has become quite an everyday occurrence for an English work of fiction by a well-known author to appear simultaneously in England and in the United States. But it is something new to hear of a novel being published simultaneously in English and in French. Yet such is to be the case with Mr. Marion Crawford's new work, "A Tale of Modern Constantinople."

—G. P. Putnam's Sons of New York publish a second edition, rewritten and enlarged, of Dr. David Ferrier's elaborate work on the "Functions of the Brain." It is the result of a vast amount of work and study and is of large value to the student of such subjects. The same concern publishes "Drawing Without a Master," by Madame Elisabeth Cave, which has received high praise from foreign critics. These lessons are translated from the fourth French edition.

—Harper & Bros. have brought suit against the Franklin Square Library Co., a Louisville, Ky., corporation, to recover \$10,000 damages. The Harpers claim, and we think with reason, an infringement of their trade-mark.

—Mrs. Custer has finished the book she has been at work upon all summer. It will make a much bulkier volume than her "Boots and Saddles." It will be published by Charles L. Webster & Co., and sold by subscription.

—Locksley Hall Sixty Years After is one of the most melancholy instances of the fact that a famous man can get a hearing for the most intolerable rubbish.

—John James Piatt, American consul at Cork, is about publishing in Dublin a volume of poems entitled "The Holy Well, with a handful of New Verses."

—At last "Literary Life," which enjoyed a brief notoriety as Miss Cleveland's magazine, is dead. It is a wonder it lived so long.

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